

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 OIC-02
/078 W

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R 071144Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9478

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB ILO EG

SUBJECT: ILO: NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 289045

1. EGYPTIANS CONCERNED WITH LABOR AFFAIRS ARE ALWAYS QUICK TO POINT TO THEIR AFRICANESS BUT IT CLEAR FROM OUR CONVERSATIONS HERE THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET FOCUSED ON QUESTION OF NEXT ILO CONFERENCE PRESIDENT. THIS IS DUE TO SOME EXTENT TO PREOCCUPATION WITH WELL FILLED CALENDAR OF LABOR CUM SOCIAL ACTIVITIES BUT ALSO REFLECTS USUAL LAST MINUTE APPROACH. WE ARE NOT, THEREFORE, ABLE AT THIS TIME TO COMMENT ON AFRICAN CANDIDATES LISTED REF A.

2. EGYPTIAN-AFRICAN LABOR RELATIONS ARE GENERALLY GOOD BUT SUPERFICIAL. WE HAVE NO FIRM BASIS FOR KNOWING WHETHER EGYPTIANS, OR EVEN OTHER ARABS, ARE CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY AFRICAN FOR ILO PURPOSES BY REST OF CONTINENT.

3. FINALLY, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SUGGEST EGYPTIAN WHO MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR ILO CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY. WHILE COMPARATIVELY MODERATE, EGYPTIANS WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WITHSTAND
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THIRD WORLD AND ARAB PRESSURE, AS PERFORMANCE IN OTHER INTER-

NATIONAL FORUMS HAS DEMONSTRATED. ADDITIONALLY, TEMPTATION TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY MIGHT BE HARD FOR EGYPTIANS TO RESIST. IN SHORT, WE DO NOT SEE MOMENT AS PROPITIOUS FOR CONJURING UP VISIONS OF EGYPTIAN ILC PRESIDENT "GAVELING DOWN SPEAKERS ATTEMPTING TO INTRODUCE EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS", PARTICULARLY REGARDING ISRAEL.

4. WE WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ANY DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPTIAN VIEWS IN ILC PRESIDENCY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, PRESIDENT, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO16828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760452-1162
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761263/aaaaccnp.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 289045
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO: NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT
TAGS: ELAB, PORG, EG, XA, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006